

Saturday, June 3, 2017

FCC Commissioners:

It is my desire to convey to you my deep concern over the proposed regulatory roll-back being contemplated in this proposed change. While, no doubt, the large incumbent internet carriers are eager to shed their responsibility to the American Public they serve, it is in that public's best interest to keep the current regulatory framework in place. Doing so would ensure that competition among internet content providers not be irrepealably damaged and that the fertile incubator created by unfettered access to customers continues to promote new market entrants.

It cannot be argued that much of our economic growth in the past two decades has been driven by the rapid growth of the technology sector. Likewise, the ability of that sector to directly, and without incurring costs beyond their own network fees, access millions of customers has allowed our economy to maintain competitiveness in the face of legacy industries sending an increasing number of jobs abroad.

The troubling trend that the current "net neutrality" regulatory framework seeks to address is the already demonstrated practices of, predominantly large, internet providers seeking to withhold or degrade access to their own customers for specific internet content providers in order to extract additional fees from the content provider. This practice flies directly in the face of the free market system we ascribe to in this country, and while ideally, consumers should be able to "vote with their dollar" and choose an internet provider who does not engage in such practices, the reality across the country is that the majority of citizens have only one or at best two poor choices.

Until and unless the last mile broadband market achieves true competitiveness, the changes proposed here represent nothing less than a betrayal of the principals and responsibilities which the American People entrust to the FCC. Rather than seeking to provide a handout to the large incumbent carriers the FCC should be seeking to make rule changes that encourage new broadband providers and attempt to give Americans true choice.

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